

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:  
receiving energy rating data at an on-premise processor transmitted by a distribution network from a host processor and storing the energy rating data in a memory, the rating data including a schedule pertaining to time and energy costs;  
receiving at the on-premise processor a message from ~~a power load controller~~ an end device requesting energy rating data, the end device controlling load activation, and wherein the message is communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the message through at least one other ~~power load controller~~ end device;  
retrieving the energy rating data from the memory and sending a response message including the energy rating data using the wireless communications link from the on-premise processor to the ~~power load controller~~ end device; and  
determining in the ~~power load controller~~ end device whether to generate an activation signal based at least in part on the energy rating data.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a power load.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a power generator.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the energy rating data further comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period associated with a second usage rate.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the ~~power load controller~~ end device determines whether to activate the power load based at least in part on the current time.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly using an 802.15.4- based communications link.

8. (Currently amended) A method for energy management, comprising:  
sending an energy rate request message from an appliance, the appliance controlling load activation, and wherein the request message is communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the message through at least one other appliance;  
receiving an energy rate schedule at the appliance using the wireless communication link, the energy rate schedule comprising a first time period for a first usage rate and a second time period for a second usage rate; and  
determining in the appliance whether to activate a power load based in part on the energy rate schedule and a current time.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising storing the energy rate schedule in a memory in the appliance.

10. (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:  
receiving at an on-premise processor a first request message from ~~a power load controller~~  
~~an end device~~ pertaining to energy rating data, ~~the end device controlling load~~  
~~activation, and wherein the first request message is communicated using a~~  
wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the first  
request message through at least one other ~~power load controller~~ ~~end device~~;  
sending from the on-premise processor a second request message over a  
distribution network to the host processor, the second request message  
pertaining to energy rating data;  
receiving at the on-premise processor a first rating response message over the  
distribution network from the host processor, the first rating response  
message including energy rating data;  
sending from the on-premise processor to the ~~power load controller~~ ~~end device~~ a  
second rating response message using the wireless communication link, the  
second rating response message including the energy rating data; and  
determining in the ~~power load controller~~ ~~end device~~ whether to generate an activation  
signal based at least in part on the energy rating data.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal  
activates a power load.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal  
activates a power generator.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ~~power load controller~~  
~~end device~~ further determines whether to activate the power load based on the current time.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the energy rating data  
comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period  
associated with a second usage rate.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the power load activated is one from the group of an air conditioning unit, an induction motor, a compressor, and a heating load.

16-74. (Canceled)

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.